

House Bill 3110

Sponsored by Representative BONHAM

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Oregon Rural Service Center within Oregon Business Development Department to assist rural counties, and cities and special districts located in rural areas, to apply for and manage public and private funding opportunities for purposes of workforce and economic development. Authorizes department to enter into agreement with Association of Oregon Counties and League of Oregon Cities to operate center. Requires department to submit annual report to interim legislative committees related to economic development setting forth findings related to operation of center by association and league, if applicable, and metrics related to assistance given by center to counties, cities and special districts.

Appropriates moneys to Oregon Business Development Department for purposes related to operation of Oregon Rural Service Center.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to a rural service center for economic development.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

5 (a) **“Rural area” means an area located in this state that is entirely outside the ac-**
6 **knowledged Portland Metropolitan Area Regional Urban Growth Boundary and the acknowl-**
7 **edged urban growth boundaries of all cities with populations of 30,000 or more.**

8 (b) **“Rural county” means an Oregon county with a population of 75,000 or less.**

9 (2) **There is created the Oregon Rural Service Center within the Oregon Business Devel-**
10 **opment Department for the purpose of assisting rural counties, and cities and special dis-**
11 **tricts located in rural areas, to learn about, successfully apply for and manage grants and**
12 **other funding opportunities available from any public or private source in order to attain the**
13 **staffing and financial and technical capacity necessary to carry out proactive strategies for**
14 **workforce and economic development in their communities.**

15 (3) **The Oregon Business Development Department may enter into an agreement with the**
16 **Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities pursuant to which the as-**
17 **sociation and the league will operate the Oregon Rural Service Center and carry out the**
18 **purposes of this section. The agreement must require the department to supervise and audit**
19 **the performance of the association and the league under the agreement.**

20 (4) **The Oregon Rural Service Center shall assist rural counties, and cities and special**
21 **districts located in rural areas, by means that include, but are not limited to:**

22 (a) **Outreach to the counties, cities and special districts about grants and other funding**
23 **opportunities;**

24 (b) **Employment of grant writers to provide direct assistance to the counties, cities and**
25 **special districts in applying for grants and other funding opportunities; and**

26 (c) **Direct assistance in managing funding obtained by the counties, cities and special**
27 **districts.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (5)(a) Not later than September 15 of each year, the Oregon Business Development De-
2 partment shall provide a report, in the manner required under ORS 192.245, to the interim
3 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development, that describes in
4 detail the activities and results of the Oregon Rural Service Center's activities in carrying
5 out the duties and authority conferred on the center under this section.

6 (b) If the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities operate the
7 center pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (3) of this section, the report
8 shall include the department's findings from its supervision and auditing of the performance
9 of the association and league in operating the center.

10 (c) In addition, the report shall identify, at a minimum, for the previous 12-month period:

11 (A) The counties, cities and special districts that requested assistance from the center;

12 (B) The counties, cities and special districts that received assistance from the center;

13 (C) The populations served by the counties, cities and special districts that requested
14 assistance from the center;

15 (D) The populations served by the counties, cities and special districts that received as-
16 sistance from the center;

17 (E) The number of funding opportunities, and the dollar amount of private and public
18 funds, separately stated, that the counties, cities and special districts applied for with as-
19 sistance from the center;

20 (F) The number of funding opportunities, and the dollar amount of private and public
21 funds, separately stated, that the counties, cities and special districts received with assist-
22 ance from the center; and

23 (G) Any other information that the department considers important to include in the
24 report.

25 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated to the Oregon Business Development Department, for
26 the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the
27 purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2019 Act.
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